Ested Cooke's History of Virginia In preparing a new series of short and

popular histories bearing the collective name American Commonwealths," the initial book, appropriately devoted to Virginia, has been written by Mr. JOHN ESTEN COOKE (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.). It would not be easy to speak of this performance in terms of too hearty commendation. The subject itself. when treated from the point of view taken by Mr. J. B. Green, and more recently in this coun try by Mr. McMaster, is invested with peculiar interest and veritable novelty; for while the history of the New Englittle is relatively known about the colonia Virginians. Yet it is unquestionably true that next to New England, Virginia has exercised the most decisive and abiding influence upon the engracter and fortunes of the composite American people. To understand the events of the momentous period which began with the war of the Revolution and ended with the war of secession, it is as indispensable to know what manner of men lived in the Old Dominion as to bear in mind what sort of mer grow up in the colony of Massachusetts Bay; the one factor is quite as essential as the other to the solution of the historical and sociological problem. On the part which Virginia has played upon the national stage during the last hundred years it is, indeed less necessary for Mr. Cooke to dwell, for tha is conspicuously set forth by all who undertake to trace the growth of the United States. What it most concerns us to learn is how Virginians came to play the part they did; what were the antecedent circumstances, material and moral, which made such a part possible, and even in evitable. That we need enlightenment on this hend is plain enough, from the perplexity in which persons usually well informed find themselves involved when they on the share taken by the slaveholding aristocracy of Virginia in the uprising against Great Britain, In Virginia, if anywhere mucht have been supposed that the British Crown mucht safely count upon the loval submission of its colonial subjects. Why such an assumption, which to this day seems reason able, proved to be entirely unfounded-how it came to pass that a land-owning, slave-keep ing, and tithe-paying aristocracy turned out to be the most resolute opponents of Church and King-will be clear to those who study Mr. Cooke's a imirable picture of the Virginia pec ple regarded as the outcome of the physical, social, and political conditions which prevailed

during the 170 years of the colonial history. The editor of the series was fortunate in securring the services of the gentleman to whom indebted for this delineation of the oldest of American commonwealths. There is no man of letters in this country so manifestly our iffest for the task here undertaken and it would have been almost importinent to have second any other. Mr. Cooke is not only known to American readers as the author of neightful novels, works of art distinguished by e morits of a close observation of life, of firm and vivid characterization, and a careful, at tractive style, but he has a special title to our esteem as being distinctly and emphat teally an American novelist, at a time when two many native writers of fletion can find in their own countrymen and countrywomen only material for irony and veiled disdain. Mr Course has not deemed it necessary to cross the Attantic Ocean in search of well-bred and engoging men and women; he has looked about him in Virginia, and found them there. Besides his pictures, moreover, of recent or contemporary Virginian life-which, after the sickly efforts to transplant and cultivate the manners and notions of a distant and alien world, invigorate and refresh us like a bracing breeze from the Blue Bidge-Mr. Cooke has sought more than once the subjects of his narratives in this or that stirring page of colonial annals, and given us gimpses of the life led by the tobacco lords on the banks of hunnors in the searceful and prosperous times covered by the first half of the eighteenth century. There is little doubt that to Mr. Cooke's writings, and to the original sources of information to which they directed him, Thackeray owed much of the historical truth and local'color which he managed to infuse into the "Vir Remembering this, and all that Mr. Chakalias directly or indirectly done to excite an thiorest in the pre-Revolutionary story of the old Dominion, we cannot but recognize a permise liness in calling upon the author of The Victima Comedians" for a history of Simpled Virginia, just as we would fain have had the reign of Queen Anne depicted by the

Of the 500 pages comprehended in this

volume more than four-fifths are allotted to

the formative epoch, during which the con-

dations of Virginia life were fixed and the

character of the people determined—the epoch ming the Declaration of Independence, For the portrayal of this little known but evolu tionary period the author has not permitted himself to seek materials at second hand; he has not sought to escape the labor of independent research by having recourse to the works of modern historians, who in a more or less cursory and uninstructive way have assamed to deal with some of the same tonies Mr. Cooke tells us, indeed, that for the delineation of the Virginians themselves, as distin guished from the incidents of their political annals, what may be termed the general his of the United States or even of Virginia would have afforded but little inssistance. He know before he began his task that the material, and above all the coloring, must be looked for elsewhere-" in the writings of the first adventurers, which are the relations of eye-witnesses or contemporaries; in forgotten namphlets form ity papers, the curious laws passed by the Burgenser, and in those traditions of the people waich preserve the memory of events in the absonce of written records." He was convinced that the portrait of the Virginians is only to be drawn with the pigments patiently collected from these remote and neglected sources, and he assures us in his proface that patiently studied the dusty archives and endeavored to extract their meaning with other object than to ascertain the truth, and to represent the men and events in their The assurance is not needed for those readers of his narrative who are competent to distinguish original and painstaking work, who can discern in every chapter proods of the patient investigation and the without which the keenest insight and the most fervent sympathy would often go astray. Mr. Cooke has made colonial Virginia alive to us, because at the outset he recognized how much work there was for the student to do be re the artist was at liberty to touch the canvas, and, secondly, because, in his case, the inquisitive and judicial are happily supplemented by the assimilative and reconstructive

Two threads of interest and inquiry run through this well-ordered narrative, and although they may seem at times pretly closely intertwined as they often were in reality, it will be easy for the careful reader to unravel and distinguish them. We may follow, if we please, the political evolution of Virginia in the first settlement of the country, and the days of the London Company, through the varied and somewhat rude experiences of the Crown Company, through the Cromwellian regreed and the royalist reaction under Charles wases engendered the uprising for popular rights, known as Bacon's Rebellion. We are shown how the ideas and resolves then exhibited upon a narrow theatre were kept alive in succeeding generations, how the conception of self-government, notwithstanding class distinctions and property qualifications, remained the fundamental principle of Virginia's politieal life, until, just a hundred years after tts firm defiance of, Sir William Berkeley, the colony set its face with even more purpose against the exact the mother country, and prochimed itself an independent Commonwealth. In the course of this survey, in which the au-

hor never loses sight of his intention to interpret what came after by what had gone before, to seek in the events and movements of colonial imes the key to the striking unanimity of feel ng and opinion which characterized Virginia furing the contest with Great Britain, we encounter not a few vigorous portraits of sturdy ndividualities-of men who in their own day. played conspicuous and even imposing parts ipon the public stage, and who transmitted the thoughts and the examples which were to in pire the patriots of the revolutionary era. Among these stalwart figures the reader will find delineated, with special respect and sympathy, the sinewy and nervous form of Nathanel Bacon, whom'the author aptly denominates the Cromwell of Virginia, and in whom we cannot fail to recognize the moral and intellectual

progenitor of Patrick Henry. For the lessons, however, to be drawn from his volume by the student of American politics, we must refer the reader to a consecutive perusal of the book itself. On the other hand the process followed and the results attained n the second line of investigation-the devel opment of Virginia society, from the knot of starving and despairing colonists huddled togother in their buts at Jamestown to the firmly planted, elaborately organized, and opulent community of the eighteenth century-can be illustrated, even in a cursory review, by brief extracts relating to the cardinal stages of social transformation. It is this feature of the book-the revelation of the life actually led by the Virginians at various epochs of their coonial history-that renders it eminently enraging, and is certain to challenge for it a wide udience. We may exemplify what Mr. Cooks has done in this direction by some quotations rom the chapter in which he presents an out ine of Virginia under James L. and set beside this the account of the golden age of the colony, by which term it is customary to designate the thirty or forty years which preceded the Revoution. We shall also note what Mr. Cooke has to say touching a question which has been the subject of some controversy, and which relates to the origin and social status of the emigrants from England who created the Virginia commonwealth.

Let us begin by observing what the earliest of

English colonies was like at the end of the

first quarter of the seventeenth century, which was coincident with the death of James I. one of whose last acts had been to abolish the great corporation known as the London Company, and still remembered by Americans as the reso ute and self-sacrificing promoter of the plant ng of Virginia. "If we take," says Mr. Cooke the chronicles for guide books, and descend lames River from near the present city of Richmond to Chesapeake Bay, we shall see as we loat on the broad current, nearly the whole of what was then Virginia pass before us. This up country is the frontier. Around the 'Falls' on the seven hills where the Capitol of Virginia i one day going to be built, adventurous settlers have erected their cabins encircled with stockades as a defence against Indians. As we float down James River, which great artery of the colony, we see first the range of hills on the left bank, once the site of the Emperor Powahtan's summer court, and then of Nonsuch, the settlement begun by Smith. Here about 15,000 acres are laid out as public land for the use of the 'University of Henrico, but as yet there are few tenants. * fonder on the right bank is the settlement of Falling Creek, or rather the blackened brands of the burnt buildings, for the Indians recently destroyed it. Master Berkeley was erecting a furnace here to smelt from and lead before the nassacre [of 1622]; but he is dead now, and the exact locality of his valuable lend mine is a secret which has died with him. . . . we glide on by the present Drury's Bluff, which is going to jar one day with the thunder of cannon, and come to the Cork screw and the Dutch Gap. Here is the city of Henricus. It has not suffered much from the massacre of 1622; the place was too strong. Without, 'in the main, is a river to river, dotted here and there with the stockade forts of the commanders, and across the narrow neck is another palisade still stronger. On the plateau, within the penin sula, is the city, with its three streets, its Indian college, its church, and the old residence of Sir Thomas Date, High Marshal of Virginia, rising above the rest. If we follow the winding current we shall see pass before us Coxendale and Hope in Faith, Forts Charity, Patience Elizabeth, and Mount Malado, and Rock Hall the parsonage of good Apostle of Virginia [the Bey, Alexander Whitaker], drowned some years since in the James. Here he and the martial Dale talked of converting Pocahontas. catechised the Indian children, and Pocaiontas herself came here often, no doubt, who she lived in the neighborhood. All are dead now but the High Marshal, who has gone away to England, and we move on, catching sight of the third settlement at Bermuda, of Flower de Hundred, Wyanoke, Westover, and all the old estates, which keep the same names to-day nearly three centuries afterward. . . . The stream is ruffled into silver crests by the west

wind, as we pass on by all the old plantations-

Berkeley, where Master Thorpe was backed

to pieces by the savages, and where

be born a hundred and fifty years hence; by Dale's plantation, where Capt.

Butler, the author of the libelious 'Unmasked

by little assemblages of manor houses, all de

Face of Virginia,' plundered Lady Dale's cattle;

fended by palisades, which dot the banks of the

great Virginia highway. * * * Before us, as

we continue to descend the James, are Martin-

Brandon and other plantations, and the settle-

ments along the Chickahominy, up which

Smith went in his barge in the ancient times.

town now appears with two or three white-

sailed ships lying in front of it, and another

President of the United States will

slowly approaching, a mere speck as yet, from the direction of the home land. The capital s a group of wooden houses, defended by a palisade and cannon, above which rises th church with its two bells. In this church, for want of a State House, sits the worshipful House of Burgesses. * * * From this historic James Cittle, as they have now begun to call it, but which the Virginians would at length grow tired of, preferring Williamsburg for a capital, we float on the ever-widening stream past the forts, the hundreds, the lingering Indian wigwams, across the bay to Daie's Gift on the Eastern Shore, where Cape Charles, named from Charles L. pushes its prow intthe Atlantic. . Crossing the Chesapeake homeward again, we pass the village of laughing King of Accomac,' go by Cheskiac, near the present Yorktown, and ascend the York River to Werowocomoco, where the Emperor [Powahtan] used to live. . . little hope of succor in this remote region of the York. It is still the nest of the imperial [Indian] régime, and the Virginians have unpleasant associations with it. A few adventurous explorers, how ever, have pushed into the country, and gone on toward the Potomac. Travelling north ward we should come on forts well defended by palisades, behind which, and looking through copholes, keen-eyed hunter-traders, rifle in hand, live on the waten. * * Passing from the head of the York across the upper Chickahominy, back to the Falls, now Richmond, we shall have had a glimpse, at least, of what was then Virginia. A little society huddled tothe peninsula between the James and the York rivers; dependen des reaching into the wilds; on the rivers gold-laced commanders las the chief men of hundreds were called, rowed swiftly by indented servants; on the outposts, pioneers watching against attack; everywhere strong contrasts of white, red, and black; the society composite, but harmonious; the Church of England the only religion though dissenters will soon intrude; the test oath against papacy demanded of every newcomer and offithe Assembly protesting against the

claim of the Governor to tax them by procla-

mation; men in armor going to harry the in-

dian settlements in spring and autumn; pub-

lic officials losing their ears; double engage

fine or whipping-this is the queer old society which we have looked at. The whole is English in warp and woof. These Virginians of the early time read English ooks, wear English clothes, eat from English plates with English knives and forks, and folow England in all things. Their Church is the Church of England; the Governor is the repreentative of the King of England; his Council is the English House of Lords, and the Burcesses the English Parliament. But, if already socially aristocratic, the small society is politically republican (in the narrow sense that Athens was, the black slaves and indented white servants not being recognized as cititens]. The ancient usage [which, however, was to be superseded fifty years later by a qualification of property as well as status; still holds that 'all freemen' shall have a voice in elec-The Virginians recognize the great truth that the gold lace of the colonial nagnates is only the guinea stamp-the manhood of the free citizen is the real gold Thus, in this new society, which is going to be denounced as an 'aristocracy,' all free men are equally entitled to say who shall be the lawmaker, and what shall be the law. Socially hey are unequal, but it is the business of each to see to that. Brains and energy are free to new out the pathway to fortune. The man who serves the colony shall have two thousand acres of good land. Let him build his house, plough the soil, husband his revenue, purchase servants, roll in his coach, sit in the Burgessesthe way is open. . . Except Jamestown and the city of Henricus, there are no towns in Virginia. The planters dislike them. Have they not their warehouses at the wharves on the rivers, approached by long, shaky trestle works running out to unload or load the ships. These ships take away their tobacco to London and bring them back every article of convenience or luxury. That is enough; towns are useless; they are even hateful inventions; men jostle against each other in streets; the freedom of life is lost; it is much better to live on a great plantation, and be monarch of all In other words, the Virginian of this time, and of all times, guards his separate individuality. and has the English passion for landed pos sessions, and the personal rule of the terri torial lord. The old historian, Beverley, described the people in his day as not minding invihing but to be masters of great tracts of

land-lords of vast territory." Let us draw a little closer to the planter of 1625, in his homestend on the James River. It is a house built of wood protected by a calisade, and the windows have stout shutters -the pallsade, be it noted, is prescribed by law. The interior is ample and conveniently fur nished, but Virginia has supplied little. * * Here is the smiling lady of the manor, in a tuge ruff, with high-heeled shoes and a short skirt, coming to welcome us, and behind her is her spouse, the hearty planter himself. He is a commander or official head of a hundred, so wears 'gold on his clothes,' as the lay authorizes him to do (1621) -others are forbidden that. * * * He is also a 'commissioner, or Justice of the Peace, to determine all controversies under the value of one hundred pounds of tobacco. Thus the worthy who advances to meet us is military commander and civil magistrate. Executive and Judge of the little community. * * * He meets us with friendly smiles, and offers us the best he has-beef, bacon, a brown loaf, Indian corn cakes, strong ale, and strong waters; there is no tea or coffee as yet. A pipe of tobacco is also presented, and you are requested to drink it, which is the phrase of the time. . . A thousand pounds of the imbecility-producing weed (as James I. has tately called it) are consumed in England every day now, and in one year (1619) Virginia has sent over 20,000 pounds of it. If you will tarry with him, the worthy planter tells you, he will show you some good sport. There are plenty of bears, deer, and wolves in the woods of the Blackwater and Chickahominy, and there is no floer divertisement than to tie a live gallop, never altering in pace until he is dead.

As to these new African people, with their sorty faces (who had lately, 1619, been imported in a Dutch shipl, their introduction is considered a doubtful good, and about buying and selling people there is, it seems, a difference of opinion among the planters. . As to the indented white servants, no one, the planters think, can find fault with that system. The company sends them over and they labor for a term of years to repay the ex-. . . They have no voice in elections. If they run away they will soon (1642) be whipped and branded on the cheek with the letter It, signifying their offence. They are to work in the fleids, to take their caps off to their may become landowners at the expiration of

their term, and then they may have servants of their own." The picture which Mr. Cooke has here painted of the Virginians during the plantation period is intended to serve for the rest of the sevenenth century. Let us now go forward a hundred years and see what the Old Dominion has grown to be in the generation which preceded the Declaration of Independence. Yet before examining the author's felicitous delineation of Virginia's golden age, let us pause a mo ment to observe what conclusion he has reached touching the social stratum of the parent State, from which the larges or, at all events, the most influential constituent of the colonial population had ome. Is it true, as a high authority in American history has affirmed, that the cavalier elenent in Virginia is only " perceptible?" basis is there for the ill-natured declaration that the old colonial society was largely made up of servants and felons? Mr. Cooks makes clear that there is no foundation for either of these statements. It is true that in 1670-the date which he selects for an inquiry into the sources of emigration-"there were 2.000 slaves and 6,000 white servants in Virbut there were 32,000 free people and the servants were merely servants, a class disfranchised by law." As to the number of felons, Jefferson computed the whole number sent over from the time of the settlement to the year 1787 at less than 2,000, and the whole number of such persons and their descendants in that year at 4,000, which would only be a very small percentage of the inhab ltants. "Nothing, in fact," says Mr. Cooke is plainer than that the servant or felon element in Virginia society counted socially and politically for nothing."

It is a suggestive fact that between 1650 and 670 the population of Virginia increased from 15,000 to 40,000. Mr. Cooke not unreasonably scribes this remarkable growth to the influx of royalists after the execution of Charles I Of the extent of the Cavaller immigration between the dates mentioned there is, the author assures us, no doubt whatever. "Virginia, the last country belonging to England that sub nitted to obedience to the Commonwealth, was the place for the Cavalier people. It was a haen of refuge in the pitiless storm, and all through the feverish years of the Commonwealth, when the home land was so dreary the distressed fugitives were stealing out of he country and sailing with sad or glad hearts Virginiaward. Some were penniless, but had friends or relations there. Others had aved something from the wreck. Many of them were persons of rank, since that cla people ran special danger in England, and Virginia narrowly escaped becoming a place or refuge for a person of the highest rank of all-Queen Henrietta Maria herself. She is said to have resolved to sail for Virginia in a fleet commanded by Sir William Davenant in 1651, not long after the King's execution. She did so, but the poet set out, and was captured by the ships of the Parliament."

As regards the character of the King's men who came over during the Commonwealth period it has been averred, even by Virginian writers, that they had no influence in affairs, or in giving its coloring to Virginia society. The facts, according to Mr. Cooke, entirely fail to "The King's men and their descendants were the leaders in public affairs and exercised a controlling influence upon community. Washington was

great-grandson of a royalist who took refuge in Virginia during the Commonwealth. George Mason was the descendant of a Colonel who fought for Charles II. Edmund Pendleton was of royalist origin, and lived and died the most uncompromising of churchmen. Bichard Henry Lee, who moved the Declaration, was of the family of Richard Lee, who had gone to invite Charles II. to Virginia. Peyton and Edmund Randolph were of an old royalist family. Archibald Cary, who threatened to stab Patrick Henry if he were made dictator, was a relative of Lord Faikland, and at his death heir apparent to the barony of Hunsdon. Madison and Monroe were descended from royalist families-the first from a refugee the last from a Captain in the army of Charles I. And Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, the great leaders of democratic opinion, were of Church and King blood, since the father of Henry was a loyal officer who 'drank the King's health at the head of his regiment,' and the mothers of both were Church of England women descended from royalist families." Mr. Cooke has dwelt upon these matters, not because he exaggerates their importance, but because it has seemed to him worth while to settle once for all a disputed question of history. He sums up the discussion of the subject in the conclusion that "the Cavalier element in Virginia was really so strong as to control all things-the forms of society and religion, and the direction of pubic affairs. The fact was so plain that he who ran might read it."

Our last extract from Mr. Cooke's history will

give us a glimpse of that vanished but strangely

interesting community, the Tidewater Virginia

of the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century, which to those who know it only by tradition is invested with the glamour of a golden age. The author is by no means blind to the grave shortcomings of the affluent and brilliant society which then flourished on the banks of the lowland rivers, but he thinks that it succeeded in working out the problem of living happily to an extent of which we find few examples to-day. "It presented the curious phenomenon of a community composed of varied classes, which never came into collision with each other-a democratic aristocracy which obstinately resisted the royal authority, and first and last fought for the doctrine that the personal right of the citizen was paramount to all. An immense change had taken place in society since the plantation time. What was rude had become luxurious, The log houses of the early settlers had given place to fine manor houses. Where forests once clothed the rich low grounds there were now cultivated fields. The pioneer who had scarcely dared to stir abroad without firearms was now a ruffled dignitary, who rode in his coach-and-four-a Justice, a vestryman, and worshipful member of the House of Burgesses. His land, purchased for a trifle, had become a great and valuable estate. No creditor could touch it, for it was entailed on his eldest son." The wilderness of Virginia had in fact been turned into a veritable continuation of old England, where the lord of the manor ruled and his son would rule after him. This development of the first adventurers into nabobs is traced, as we have said, by Mr. Cooke to the Cavalier invasion that " llowed

the execution of Charles I., and that moulded Virginia usages to the time of the Revolution. Although the period now under review was eally one of transition, the Virginia of that day presented on the surface "all the features of a social fabric which has settled down firmly, and which nothing can shake from its founlations. A prevalent fancy is that this foundation was African slavery, but no impression could be more unfounded. African slavery and the system of indented servitude which was the same thing in a milder form, were only incidents. * * * As a simple historic fact, African slavery, like system of indented servitude, in the eighteenth century characteristic of American society in general, not of the South only. There is in those early years; the predominance of the negro race in the South was the result of climatic conditions only. . . The Virginia landholder would have been the same in the absence of slaves or indented servants. The sentiment of aristocracy attributed to him was quite independent of the system of labor in vogue, as it is independent of any such institution in the English of to-day."

Aside from the slaves and indented servants who produced the crops and performed industrial as well as menial duties on the great estates, Virginia society in the eighteenth century was composed of heterogeneous materials, "Beginning with Accomac and the lower Tidewater, we have the 'longshoremen, living by their nots, a merry and careless race, fond of their 'horse-penning' festivities on the Islands of the Atlantic coast, when the wild horses were driven up in autumn to be caught; the merchants or factors in the infrequent towns; the small landholders answering to the English yeomen; the planters of the James and York; the Church of England and New Light ministers ; the Scotch-Irish and others settled in the valley, and the porder families of the mountains pushing civilization steadily beyond the Alleghanies." One of the least known of these types is the small landholder. Mr. Cooke assures us that the current impression that the members of this class of small freeholders were men of in ferior character, having a great jealousy of the planters, has nothing whatever to support but is mainly due to Mr. Wirt and other writers who allowed their imaginations to control their judgments. The author has found proof everywhere, he says, in the old records that the "planters and small landholders lived in entire harmony and had a mutual respect and regard for each other. They opposed Berkeley together, and fought side by side under Bacon; they steed shoulder to shoulder in the Revolution, and as neighbors and fellow citizens they were associated and worked together for aims as dear to one class as to the other. The question of suffrage never divided them; that concerned only the freedmen who had served their time, but were landless. Freehold tenure of his estate made the small landholder the political equal of his richer neighbor." There is no warrant, it appears, in the annals of the colonial period for scribing to him any sentiment of subserdency to the planters or of rancorous envy of heir great possessions. Even later, when agitators urged the French doctrine that the poor were the natural enemies of the rich. they found very few to listen to them in the

Old Dominion. Mr. Cooke does not deny the justice of many of he criticisms to which the Virginia planter of the ancient régime has been aubjected. He is quite alive to the prejudices, foibles, and self-imortance of the Tidewater nabob. But he submits that other people in America at the time very much resembled him in these particulars. He was not the only victim of contracted views and personal pride; and his manner of living. with its provincial pretentiousness, was imiated in other quarters of the country. Patroon life on the Hudson, for example, was similar o planter life on the James; nor were the descendants of old New England families much behind in the affectation of aristocratic ele-

But, although social inequality and class disinction were the essential and even the obtrusive features of the Virginia community, Mr. Cooke reiterates that life was for all men easy and pleasant in the later colonial times. Virginians of the old school look back to those imes as to the old moons of Vilton, and insist that the past moons were brighter than the moons of to-day. After all, it was a happy era. Care seemed to keep away from it, and stand out of its sunshine. The planter in his manor house, surrounded by his family and repatriarch mildly ruling everybody; drank wholesome wine, sherry or Canary, of his own importation; entertained every one; held great festivities at Christmas, around which the family clan gathered, and everybody, high and low, seemed to be happy. It was the life of the family, not of the great world, and produced that intense attachment for the soil which has become pro-

verbial; which made a Virginian once say, 'If I had to leave Virginia, I should not know where to go.' What passed in Europe was not known for months, but the fact did not ap pear to detract from the general content. Journeys were made on horseback or in coaches, and men were deliberate in their work and in their pleasures. But if not so rapid, life was more satisfactory. The portraits of the time show us faces without those lines which care furrows on the faces of the men of to-day. There was no solicitude for the morrow. The plantation produced everything, and was a little community sufficient for itself. There was food in profusion; wool was woven into clothing, shoes made and blacksmithing performed by the retainers on the estate. Such luxuries as were desired-books, wines, silks, and laceswere brought from London to the planter's wharf in exchange for his tobacco, and he was content to pay well for all if he could thereby escape living in towns, Almost nothing was manufactured in Virginia outside of the shops on the estates, Iron was smelted at Spotawood's furnace on the Bappahannock-six hundred tons in 1760but it went away for the most part to England to be fashioned into articles of use and resold to the producer. The Virginia planter was content to have it so; to be left to live as he liked ; to improve his breeds of horses, of which he was extremely fond; to attend races; to hunt the fex; to welcome everybody at his hospitable manor house; to take his ease as a provincial seigneur on his patrimonial acres and to leave his eldest son to represent the

This old society led a tranquil, merry exisence from the first years of the eighteenth century. How it gradually became transormed through the disestablishment of the formed through the disestablishment of the Established Church and the abolition of entail and memy other social and economical changes which followed the erection of the colony into an independent commonwealth will be found carefully and lucidly set forth in Mr. Cooke's narrative. Nor will the reader fail to note, as the most striking fact brought out in the latter part of this history, how promptly and successfully the great landowners admited themselves to the altered conditions of the new time. The political as well as social ascendancy which they and their descendants have maintained in Virginia almost to our own day furnishes decisive proof that "under the folibes and prejudices of the planter of the old régime lay a bread manifess of nature, which insured the survival of his influence as an individual and a citizen." M. W. H. rule, do not consist of more than one room, and even when one has turned out their human inhabitants, it still remains tenanted by so

Additional Information from Librarian Vosburgh Concerning the Antique Tomes in the Library of the Court of Appenie.

ROCHESTER, Aug. 31. - "What are they worth-what value do you put upon these black letter folios?" is a question often asked, but never satisfactorily answered. The reason is that as antiques their money value is beyond computation. In the event of their destruction their loss could never be replaced, as in case of the book we have under consideration-Bracton. The title page is in old law Latin-" Henrici de Bracton, Legibus et consuctinibus Angliæ Libri Quinque. which, fairly rendered, is, "Henry Bracton's

which, fairly rendered, is, "Henry Bracton's treatise on the laws and customs of England, in five books,"

This volume is one of the first edition of Bracton. It was printed in 1540, from authenticated manuscripts of the author. A Preserved manuscript copy of this great work was lost by the partial burning of the Cottonian Library on Oct. 23, 1731. There is a discrepancy between the setual date of this tome of Bracton and the historial record of the same, as given by the "British Cyclopaedia." The London edition of that work, 1838 (vol. IX. p. 2160, says that Bracton "is known chiefly by his learned work. De Legibus, the first printed edition of which was in 1569," But the vignette and title puge of our folio must be correct. In less than a single decade it will have completed the first half of its four hundredth year.

Although not as old as Magna Charta, yet as Bracton was a contemporary of the Barons, and wrote his manuscripts in King John's times, we naturally associate this antique work with that "bulwark of English liberty." Bracton was made a Judge by Henry III, in 1244, and it should be remembered that between the thirty-two confirmations of Magna Charl thirty-two confirmation of tangua Charta, some of which were attended with as much eeremony and great formalities as the original granting of that instrument. The last received the great sent of England at Ghent. This nation declares that it was the voluntary act of King John, spondane et bona voluntary act of king John, spondane et bona voluntary act of mis successors, Henry III, and Edward I. II., and HIL, in so much that during their turbulent reigns those many confirmations which were a regranting of the Charter, under compulsion of the sturdy Barons, with additional liberties) took place.

onal liberties) took place. Of the many originals of this famous docuof the many originals of this famous decument only two are known to be in existence (some authorities say one), which are preserved in the British Museum. There were numerous originals made. All were executed by the King, and were original. One was deposited in each cathedral and eastle in the realm, a method in the middle ages of publishing the laws, in addition to the oral proclamation, from the street corners in Louison the

dition to the oral proclamation, from the street corners in London, the same as on the accession of a new monarch.

Including the Year Books" and "Pandects," this library contains over 120 "black letters," the most juvenile work among them being in the third century from its publication. "Are they ever called for or used under your present code and practices?" was asked not long since by an intelligent layman.

Yes, sir. Hardly a week passes without a reference to some follo' among them, oftener in chancery or equity cases than actions at law. But even in the latter the call for these forgotten authors is not infrequent.

But even in the latter the call for these forgotten authors is not infrequent."

To realize the groat age of the oldest of these works, compare their date with certain historiesi events. Our volume of Blackstone's Commentaries was printed a hundred years before the first settlement of Jamestown, Va. The margins contain "annotations"—original marks and references by the then owner's pen, made only 48 years after Columbus set sail from Paios, on his first voyage of discovery. They existed before the birth of Mary, Queen of Scots, and antedate her escape from Loch Leven more than a quarter of a century, and her execution at Fotheringay Castle near half a century.

a century.

"Laten's Reports," a posthumous and service translation from the oil Norman-French in the first three years of King Charles the First's reign, will repay examination. It is properly in appearance and is preserved with in the first three years of King Charles the First's reign, will repay examination. It is senerable in appearance, and is preserved with care. We learn from a red ink notation that an Admiralty case reported therein, decided in 1661, has been "overruled," a limit we should expect, after looking the case over, as several or the Judges gave dissenting opinions. Its title is "Justus Lyrus versus the Negro"—the inbelling of a sein. A rare word made use of in the preface or rather in the commendation of this author's work in postnumeus publication, as before stated, recalls a curious custom which formerly prevailed in England. We quote: "Things which by their native excellence commend themselves, like good wine, need no bush." Websier says that Joy was sacred to Bacchus; and in England, in process of time, the basging of a bush in front of a noted became the recognized sign where

process of time, the base ing of a bush in front of a hotel became the recognized sign where where work were sold. As no credit had been given by Mr. Waipole, the collator, we have to given by Mr. Waipole, the collator, we have to given by Mr. Waipole, the collator, we have to given by Mr. Waipole, the collator, we have to gressime that he had forgotten Shakesneare's. If it be true that good play needs no collegue."

Ancient Gustomes of London, "a small volume, will always attract attention. The edges of its leaves have that very peculiar appearance, dark, yellow, and grim, which great ago alone can give, and which even Chatterton could not counterfeit. From it we learn that London does not claim to be a corporation by charter from the King nor by act of Parlament, but by prescription. That is to say, it has been one so long "that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." In this country twenty years gives certain rights and franchises by prescription.

Of the 120 or 130 cumbrous works of great

not to the contrary. In this country twenty years gives certain rights and franchises by prescription.

Of the 120 or 130 cumbrous works of great age, the bare title would require more time and space than is at our command.

Where did you got these old works? has been asked more than once. 'Are you not afraid of their being stolen?'

No sir: the great size and weight of most of them goes a great way toward their safety."

Such small volumes as 'Choyee Cases' (Lenard II a time! Baron Gibert's Reports' (Queen Anne's reign). 'W S. Reports' (Queen Anne's reign). 'W S. Reports' (Queen Anne's reign). 'W S. Reports' (Gueen Anne's reign). '

A SUMMER CAMP ON CARMEL.

Espia, Mount Carmel, Aug. 20,-The fact that the cholera was raging in Egypt, that in the ordinary course of events it was certain to visit Syria, that even if it did not, the months of July, August, and September are disagree-ably hot at Haifa, determined me to make the experiment of camping out on the highest point of Carmel and I am at this moment sitting under a Bedouin tent, arranged after fashion of my own, at an altitude of 1,800 feet above the level of the sea, upon which I look down in two opposite directions.

On the northwest, distant six niles, curves the Bay of Acre, with the town itself glistening white in the distance; and on the south west, distant seven miles, the Mediterranean breaks upon the beach that bounds the plain of Sharon, and with a good glass I can make out the outlines of the ruins of the old port of Casarea, Southward are the confused hills known as the Mountains of Samaria; beyond them, in the blue haze, I can indistinctly see the highlands of Gilend; while nearer still Mount Gilbon, Mount Tabor, the Nazareth range, with a house or two of that town visible, and Mount Hermon behind the higher ranges of northern Galilee, are all comprised in a prospect un rivalled in its panoramic extent and in the interest attached to the localities upon which the eye rests in every direction. I was some time picking out just the spot on which to camp, so many advantageous sites, suggested themselves, but the paramount necessity of being near a village for security and supplies and, above all, near a good spring, decided me in favor of my present location; and as the conditions under which I have brought a large party up to the top of this somewhat inaccessible mountain and planted them upon it are novel, I venture to think that an account of our experience may interest your readers. In the first place, the village itself was out of the question, partly because Arab houses, as a

many others of a carnivorous character, though minute in size, that existence becomes a burden; and partly because they are pervaded with a singular odor of burnt manure which the natives use as fuel for the evens in which they bake their broad, and which is too pungent to be agreeable to unsophisticated nostrils. After inhaling it for a month I have got rather to like it than otherwise. As I suspected that such might be the case, and believed that a successful war might be waged against the insects. I decided on hiring one of these rooms as a guest chamber and a place of resort from the midday sun, in case the camp did not prove a sufficient protection. This room was nothing more nor less than a vault like a cellar, with stone walls and a stone roof, supported by cross arches about 20 feet by 39; and I may here mention that the precaution turned out wise, for we got fairly rid of the fleas, and the emperature in the middle of the day, when we isually repair to it for our siesta, has never been over 80°. But how to make a camp which should recommodate three ladies and four gentlemen was a serious question. We had one European tent capable of holding two people, and a smaller one for a bachelor of modest requirements in the way of standing and these we supplemented with a tent which we hired of some neighbor-ing Bedouins, which was thirty feet ong, but which, when pitched according to their fashion, was an impossible habitation for civilized beings, as it had no walls. Indeed, the whole breadth of the black camel's hair cloth of which it was composed was only ten feet. We therefore decided on using it merely as a roof, and sent down to Haifa for a camel oad of light lumber in order to make a frame on which to stretch it. We also got up two dozen cheap mats, six feet square, at twenty-five cents apiece. With these we nade front and back walls and navon which we proudly hoisted the national fing. was 34 feet long, 10 feet wide, 7 feet high in front and 5 feet in rear. These mats can be riced up in front and rear in the daytime so as to allow a free circulation of air. On the roof, in order to keep the sun from beating too floreely upon us, we spread branches of the odorous bay tree, with which the scrubby woods of the mountain abound, and of these same branches we erected a kitchen and stable for the horse and three donkeys which composed our establishment. The thermometer usually falls to 70° at night, and there are heavy morning

dews and fogs, It was no slight task selecting the furniture.

It was no signitus as selecting the furniture, bedding, cooking utensils, and comestibles for a party of seven, and it took eight camels besides sundry donkeys to carry all our necessaries. In order to understand the nature of the path over which we had to travel, the reading the sundry donkeys to carry all our necessaries. In order to understand the nature of the path word in the popular notion conveyed to the sundry the sundry of the path secund to carmed, that it is a solitary hill. So applied to carmed, that it is a solitary hill. So applied at its base. It culminates in a promontory, which projects into the sea at its pax, but we are established ten miles from Haifa, the path ascending abruptly from that town, and backbone of the ridge, established to travel for a delicate lady, involving steep, precipitous ascents, for which sure-footed donkeys are best; but we were obliged to resort to a chair and alittor, each carried by four bearers, who, as they sumbled and cambered up the narrow path, sea to the parts of the way. We are amply repaid for them.

The mights and mornings are of ideal beauty. The effects of sunrise and sunset, ever varying, over the vast inniseance that stretches around and beneath us, are a constant source of wonder and beingth. From the vine-overed tearson wild rocky precipitous source we look down a wild rocky precipitous source we look down a wild rocky precipitous source who had an interest to the sunset of the sure of the control of the sure of the control of the cont

LADIES WAGING A SEMPERANCE WAS

Closter Divided into Two Camps on the Ques

tion of Granting a License. The village of Closter, in the northeast corner of New Jersey, has about 600 inhabitants. many of whom are New York business men. social convulsion on the question of granting a liquor license to the proprietor of the Closter City Hotel, Ernest F. Linderman, divides the villagers into two opposing camps. A year ago there were three liquor sellers in Closter. It is said by the total abstainers that not infrequently a dozen intoxicated men could be seen it one time in the street. Last fall the applications of two of the liquor sellers for liceuses were refused. In April last leaders of the nolicense movement thought they had compromised with the only remaining liquor dealer. W. I. Linderman, by paying the rent of the building in which he kept his saloon, while Linderman promised to sell no liquer. A few weeks after the compre

saloon, while Linderman promised to sell no liquer. A few weeks after the compromise was made, however, the abstainers believed that they had caught Mr. Linderman selling beer in violation of his agreement, and they procured names of half of the men in the village against granting him a license.

Belle E. Hammond, Principal of the Closter Institute, and Mrs. Eliza F. Duryea, wife of Albert B. Duryea, salesman at 10 Worth street in this city, obtained the names of nearly 100 women, most of them over 21 years old, to a remonstrance against granting Linderman; ileense, Many of the husbands of the women who signed this document have either signed the application for a license to E. F. Linderman, son of W. L. Linderman, or they are in the Linderman for the application for a license advocates are man, son of W. L. Linderman, or they are in the Linderman's friends have asserted that the total abstainers and no-license advocates are making political capital out of the affair, and a few days ago the partisans of license held a public meeting in Closter, at which these alleged tactics of the enemy were denounced. On the other hand, the no-license citizens exputhat they are threatened with the destruction of their property by their adversaries.

Linderman's license was applied for yesterday in the Bergen County Court before Justice Skinner. The court room was crowded with persons, many having come fifty miles, Lawver C. B. Harvey of Closter led the remonstrants.

I have a letter, he said, in which the threat is made that if the remonstrants do not cease their obstruction to the obtaining of this license the Congregational church in Closter will be burned. This neglarious business must go down or we who oppose this license must go down or we who oppose this license must go down or we who oppose this license must go down or we who oppose this license must go down or we who oppose this license must go down or we who oppose this license must go down or we who oppose this license must go down or we who oppose this license must

court stripped of his ass's skin and show what a lion het is."

Then Albert B, Duryes, James Kipp, salesman for the Goodvear Rubber Company on Broadway, William D, G. Kipp, John J. Bogert, Sr. C. B. Harvey, A. J. Demarest, James Dean, and David Feiter testified that business had been better in Closter while Linderman sold no beer. It was easier to collect bills than it was when there were three groggeries in the villing. The Rev. Herbert Turner, pastor of the Congregational church, testified that when Linderman's saloon was in full blast it was unsafe for wives and daughters to walk on the street. Now the streets were peaceful. From his house he could see Linderman's saloon door. Formerly Closter was known as a place where drunkards resorted, now it was known as a temperance town.

Belle E Handwond of the Closter Institute.

drunkards resorted, now it was known as a temperance town.

Belle E. Hamimond of the Closter Institute testified that all of the women's names on the remonstrance were signed by themselves with but one exception. Mrs. Isaac Quackenbush's sister signed for her. The witness had heard that since the feeling on the subject had been so warm in Closter many of the women signers had repented and desired to withdraw their names. She had found, however, that all but ten insisted on keeping their names on the remonstrance. Five of the ten whom she had not seen could not be found. They had gone away. Meanwhile she had gained two names, and had now a total of 94 signers.

Mrs. E. F. Duryen objected to granting the license because she did not want to see the sidewalks full of intoxicated men.

SUING HIS WIFE'S SECOND HUBBAND The Family and Cask that Mr. Evans Lost while in the Army.

ELMIRA, Sept. 13,-In the latter part of 1864 Howlan Evans, a resident of Veteran, Chemung county, enlisted in the army. He received a bounty of \$700. Evans was a farm hand, and had worked principally for a neighbor, a well-to-do farmer named Reuben Tilli. EVANS had a young wife and three small children. Tifft was 50 years of age, and had a wife and family of grown-up children. Evans regarded him as his best friend, and confided his family and the \$700 bounty to his care while he was in the army. Evans also asserts that he sent Tifft \$192 besides at different times, About the time that Evans enlisted. Tifft's wife died, and soon afterward it was remarked that he was extremely attentive to Mrs. Evans. In April, 1865, she removed all her household goods and personal property to Tifft's farm, and went there to live. A short time after it was announced that advorce had been granted to Mrs. Evans from her soldier husband, and then Tifft and she were married. When Evans returned home he found that he had no home to go to, and that his wife and children were no longer his.

All efforts to recover the money he had placed with Tifft, and to regain control of his chil-dren, were unsuccessful, and a year or so ago he had recourse to the law. His children had grown up under Tifft's charge, and two of he had recourse to the law. His children had grown up under Tifft's charge, and two of them were married when the proceedings were begun. All he sought to recover was the bounty money and other sums he had sunt to his odd employer. The case was referred to Col. J. E. Baxter for a hearing, which has just ended.

Tifft, in defending the suit, presents a claim against Evans for board furnished the latter's children after he had entired the mother away and notwithstanding his refusal to surrender the custody of the children to the father. He acknowledges receiving \$761 from Evans, but says that a portion of it was to be used in paying him for a house and lot which he deeded to Mrs. Evans at the request of her husband so that she might have a home in case he should be killed in the army. Evans denies ever making the request, and it is in evidence that Tifft deeded the property to Mrs. Evans a short time before she went to live with him. She never occupied it, but after selling the timber on the place for \$100, and gave the entire proceeds to Tifft. When one of Evans's daughters was married Tifft gave her \$150, which sum he also asserts should be charged against the father.

Roferee Baxter reserves his decision, but it is understood that judgment will be given in favor of Evans for the full amount of his claim.

Bougins's Latimate of James Buchnone

Bouglas's Estimate of James Buchanan.

From the Omaha Herata.

The appearance of George Ticknor Curtis's

"Life" of Mr. Buchanan, who was derided and abused so much at the outbreak of the civil war as an imbeelie, an "old public functionary," and a traitor to his country, will do much to correct the injustice that was done a man in that crisis whose public services always reflected honor upon his country. After the lapse of twenty years and the passing away of the passions arising in the civil war, justice can and will be done to a pure, able, and patriotic man, to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude rather than the return of wrong and injustice. But it is not to recount Mr. Buchanan's public eareer, which covered a long and important period in the history and progress of the United States, that we mention him now. We wish to recall an incident which shall give an answer from Stephen A. Douglas to the popular notion that Mr. Buchanan was a weak man.

The time was, say 1558. The place was in the home of Mr. Douglas in the city of Washington. The celebrated discussion between Mr. Douglas, in Harper's Magazine, and Julego Black, in the Washington I nion, on the Incomposition of the Country were an in the great controversy. Alexander H. Stephens, a friend of Douglas, and one other whose name we fail to recall at the moment of writing had met with their legs under the Douglas mahogany, and had failed to head the breach which divided the Democratic party and wheled to the selection of Mr. Lincoln and the bloody war which followed.

William A. Richardson, John G. Davis of Indiana, and, as the writer remembers, Senater the lapse of twenty-five years), called on Mr. Douglas, in Heratic lapse of twenty-five years), called on Mr. Douglas, in the simpler of the Heratic bounds of the device of the segment of the segment with their legs under the bought was spend with the Little Giant who, pebed in making the summer of the segment From the Omaka Herald.

by the kindness of Richardson, accommonications of these gentilenees. Much of the day was spent these gentilenees. Much of the day was spent with the "Little Giant" who, robed in his dressing gown, which renemed to his slippers is remembered as a common-bedking flagure, and brains and bedy and no legs that were discernible in that strictly private uniform. The discussion was on the runing topes of the hour classion was on the runing topes of the hour Mr. Pouglas was conversationally cloquent but anxious. The trio named were his trusted body guard, so to say, on the floor of the Honor of the flagure of Representatives gailunt soldiers in the high not one of them really dreaming of the early exact of the controversy in the frightin war of the rebellon which was a direct result of it. Much was and against the President during the local talk when Gov. Richardson, becoming particularly indignant, denounced Mr. Buchanan as a weak man, an imbectic, as he was standing in the centre of the parior and speaking with characteristic vehsuouse of manner when the fion in him was aroused. At this moment Mr. Douglas was reclining on a sofa. He spraug up, waked rapidly to where Gov. Richardson was standing and, reaching up and placed his hand on Richardson's shoulder in the familiar way, he said: "Hold on heed to familiar way, he said: "Hold on heed to have the form that moment on that line of discussion of the then President of the United States And it was then that we got the estimate which Mr. Douglas classed upon the abilities of James Buchanar